FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force attacked a "medium-sized target" near Khark Island on 24 January, dealing a "destructive" blow, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Another "medium-sized target" was hit south of Khark Island on 23 January, according to a military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

Lebanon

At the resumption of the Al-Naqurah military talks with Israel on 24 January, the Lebanese delegation affirmed that the Army is prepared to take over the Sidon area, Beirut radio reported. Following a 23 January Cabinet session Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, maintained that Israel's Al-Naqurah proposals were "incomplete and inconsistent" with the Lebanese demand for a timetable. When the talks resumed on 24 January the Israeli delegation again contended that there is no timetable, according to Jerusalem radio.

Gromyko Mideast Visit

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko will shortly visit Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria for talks on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and to discuss the possibility of convening an international conference under UN auspices, KUNA reported citing sources in Amman. Monitored Soviet sources have not mentioned a Gromyko tour of the Middle East.

Egypt

GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, who is on a 3-day visit to Egypt, discussed bilateral relations and international issues with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, MENA reported.

Israel

Agreement was reached at the prime minister's office over an economic "package deal" for the next 8 months, Jerusalem radio announced. Subsidies for all types of fuel will be cancelled and fuel prices will rise immediately by around 34 percent.

PLO

Cairo's *AL-JUMHURIYAH* disclosed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has moved his residence in Tunisia from the seafront to central Tunis for security reasons, MENA reported. Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf told the newspaper that the Syrians and Libyans had planned to assassinate 'Arafat in a naval landing operation. However, the Soviet Union recently asked 'Arafat to end his "media campaign" against Syria, according to Kuwait's *AL-QABAS*.

OPEC

The OPEC deputy secretary general, in a statement cited by OPECNA, denied reports that OPEC experts agreed on proposals for a $2.50 reduction in the oil marker price during their recent meeting in Riyadh. Although OPEC sources said the experts had also made "appreciable progress" in adjusting the imbalance in price differentials between heavy and light crudes, "informed sources" in London contended that the meeting in Riyadh failed to solve the issue of price differentials, according to KUNA.

Morocco

Hassan Visit — Interior Minister Driss Basri confirmed that King Hassan II will visit the Western Sahara on the 3 March anniversary of his accession to the throne, according to MAP. The king's visit will "witness a new green march" in which the whole country will participate to prove its national unity and unanimity over the "irreversible" Moroccan nature of the Western Sahara, Basri stated.

Criticism of Algeria — A Rabat paper cited by MAP sharply criticized Algeria for pushing the cause of Polisario and "blocking any peace initiative" at a time when all the Maghreb countries have agreed to hold a summit.

Iran

Musavi in Cuba — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, during a stopover in Cuba on his way to Nicaragua, discussed bilateral relations with Fidel Castro, Tehran radio reported. Musavi will spend 3 days in Nicaragua and will meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, the radio added.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan has protested to Afghanistan over further airspace violations and bombings by DRA aircraft in the Arandu region on 21, 22, and 23 January, according to reports by Karachi radio.

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Keshtmand, Soviet Officials Attend Ceremony
LD240037 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Kabul House Construction Combine, the vivid example of reciprocal Afghan-Soviet cooperation and friendship, today marked its 20th founding anniversary in a grand ceremony.

At this ceremony the highest medal, the Friendship of the Peoples [Khalqo Dosti], approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in appreciation of the work and activities of the house construction combine's workers, technicians, and engineers was presented to that combine. The commemorative plaque, a symbol of work memories and indefatigable activities of the house construction combine's workers and employees and a symbol of Afghan-Soviet friendship and fraternal cooperation, was unveiled.

This grand ceremony was attended by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and DRA Council of Ministers chairman; several PDPA Central Committee Politburo members; a number of Revolutionary Council and DRA Council of Ministers members; the mayor of Kabul; some Kabul municipality personnel; Trofimov, Moscow Gorispolkom first deputy chairman and his accompanying delegation; Fikryat Tabeyev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Soviet Union in the DRA; workers, technicians, engineers, as well as the workers of the house construction combine; and a number workers from Kabul's productive enterprises.

The ceremony began following the playing of the Afghan and Soviet national anthems. Soltan Ali Keshtmand, Council of Ministers chairman delivered a speech on the role and importance of the house construction combine as one of the highest manifestations of Afghan-Soviet internationalist and friendship assistance. He said:

[Begin Keshtmand recording] Comrades and dear friends, worker sisters and brothers, workers, engineers and employees of the Kabul House Construction Combine collective:

I am delighted to attend the grand ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the start of production in your great, important, and public welfare enterprise — the Kabul House Construction Combine.I offer congratulations from the bottom of my heart to you, the experienced and pioneer workers, the innovative and working Afghan and Soviet engineers and experts, and all collective personnel and employees on this occasion. [applause]

In expressing pleasure I recall that the esteemed guests from the council of representatives of the people of the great and beautiful city of Moscow, the capital and beating heart of the great Soviet country, headed by Comrade N.S. Trofimov, Moscow Gorispolkom first deputy chairman, are attending this glorious ceremony.

We are delighted that Comrade Fikryat Tabeyev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in the DRA, is also here among us.

Comrades and friends, the Kabul House Construction Combine is an outstanding symbol of Afghan-Soviet friendship and one of the most important, as well as the first construction installation in the country constructed with the Soviet Union's economic and technical assistance.

This important and productive enterprise, which has accomplished vivid and outstanding services in the construction of apartments for Kabul citizens after it started production in 1965, was presented to the people of Afghanistan as a gift from the Soviet people.

During its 20 years, this valuable gift has constructed 135 four- and five-storey residential blocs comprising 5,646 apartments, dozens of schools, shops, nurseries, cinemas, administrative buildings, bridges, hundreds of kilometers of road and engineering networks; and has assisted in the completion of construction work on other important buildings including Kabul International Airport, Kabul Polytechnic, the auto-mechanic technical college of Kabul, the DRA Armed Forces hospital, child and mother care center, and other buildings.

It should be mentioned that the potential and present capacities of the Kabul House Construction Combine have been effectively utilized since the victory of the April revolution.

For example, 3,246 apartments have been constructed during approximately 7 post-revolutionary years. This factory's productive capacity has been increased 42 percent in the past several years and it is now envisaged that the factory's productive capacities will be expanded once again with the Soviet Union's economic and technical assistance.

The size of residential areas will also be extended from 51,000 to 100,000 square meters and the productive capacity of ferroconcrete will be increased from 37,000 to 73,000 cubic meters. Thus, more than 1,600 fully equipped apartments will be put at the disposal of Kabul's working citizens.

Nearly 25 percent of the workers in the Kabul House Construction Combine are party members and all belong to the trade unions. Ninety percent of the workers have voluntarily joined the self-defense groups and a large number of them joined the civil defense groups.

I take this opportunity to once again express my heartfelt appreciation for the Soviet Union's formidable and fraternal assistance of which the house construction combine is one of its fruits and manifestations.

Comrades and dear friends of the Kabul House Construction Combine, allow me to congratulate you once again on this 20th auspicious anniversary and wish you further success in your productive and noble task.

Thank you for your attention. [end recording]

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Trofimov, Moscow Gorispolkom first deputy chairman then spoke on behalf of that committee and expressed delight over his attendance at the 20th anniversary ceremony of the Kabul House Construction Combine. He said:

Important events and formidable transformations have taken place in the life of the Afghan people during the past 20 years. The starting point of this formidable transformation is the creation of the Kabul House Construction Combine which has glorified Kabul's features through the construction of modern residential apartments.

This combine, as a gift from the Soviet Union to solve the most important problems of Afghanistan's workers, that is to say the issue of housing, is an outstanding example of Soviet-Afghan friendship and cooperation.

The Soviet Union will not spare any cooperation and assistance for the working people of Afghanistan. The process of this cooperation will continue in a selfless and fraternal manner.

The Moscow Gorispolkom first deputy chairman congratulated the workers and employees of the Kabul House Construction Combine on its 20th founding anniversary and then presented the Moscow city merit certificate and friendship badge, as the symbol of friendship to the House Construction Combine.

PDPA Secretary Saddiqi Visits Army Units

LD231922 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Warm greetings and good wishes from Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary and DRA Revolutionary Council president were conveyed yesterday to Paktia Province's Central Army Corps' units and companies by Brigadier General Yasin Saddiqi, PDPA Central Committee secretary and head of Army Political Affairs. Brigadier General Yasin Saddiqi took part in a meeting at Paktia Army Corps Headquarters and issued necessary instructions to the men, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the units and companies aimed at improving their revolutionary tasks.

According to another report, Yasin Saddiqi took part in a meeting today at the Gardeyz City Commissariate. He issued specific instructions at the meeting in connection with relevant tasks and proposals. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Yasin Saddiqi then inspected tribal brigades and battalions in (Rod-e Ahmadzaii). He also went to the tribal brigade in (Ganda Khel) and met with the noble inhabitants of that village. During the meeting the people of the area promised all-around cooperation in defending the April revolution and defending their revolutionary homeland against the revolution's enemies.

UK DAILY TELEGRAPH Reports Mujahidin Successes

PM231307 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jan 85 p 4

[M. Aftab dispatch: "Ten Russian Helicopters Destroyed in Attack"]

[Text] Islamabad — Afghan guerrillas attacked the main Russian air base of Bagram, 25 miles north of Kabul, last Wednesday and destroyed at least 10 helicopters, according to Western diplomats in dispatches to Pakistan.

The daytime attack was executed under cover of a severe snowstorm. All aircraft had been grounded and the destruction at the base was described as "the worst in at least five years."

The Afghan Islamic Press, refugee news service based in Pakistan, said that Bagram air base was attacked with mortar and rocket fire, and that the 50 guerrillas involved also knocked out six tanks and three ammunition depots.

Several aircraft were also destroyed on Monday, Jan. 14, when the Mujahidin guerrillas launched a rocket attack on Qandahar airport in south-eastern Afghanistan.

Eyewitness reports say fighting between the insurgents and the Russian occupation forces in the bazaar area of Qandahar is an almost daily occurrence.

Diplomats also reported that an aircraft of the domestic Afghan Airline Bakhtar was hit on Jan. 9 on a flight from Bamian to Meymaneh. The pilot was injured, but he managed to land the plane safely at its destination.

On Jan. 10, the Russians heavily bombed Paghman in the (Shomali) region, while in the Panjsher valley, a hotbed of the Afghan resistance, a large number of Afghan regime troops defected and joined the Mujahidin.

Diplomats said that an Afghan Army general also defected and joined the insurgents.

BAKHTAR Comments on Zia's Promise of Elections

LD231045 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 23 Jan 85

["Will General Zia Islamise Himself?" — BAKHTAR headline; "Reproduced From *KABUL NEW TIMES* dated Jan 20" — BAKHTAR editorial note]

[Text] Kabul, January 22, BAKHTAR — The referendum held by General Ziaul Haq, the military dictator of Pakistan on December 19 last was one of the worst examples of debauchery of religion by an oppressive usurper regime to cling on to power by hook or crook.

General Zia had usurped power in 1977 by overthrowing the elected and legally constituted government of Pakistan headed by Z.A. Bhutto, leader of the Peoples Party of Pakistan. General Zia also eliminated Bhutto deliberately, involving him in a cooked up case against him.

Actually Zia was Bhutto's most trusted general, whom he had promoted to the highest position in the Pakistani Army, disregarding the seniority of many others. Therefore, Zia's act of executing his own prime minister, who had brought him up, was all the more treacherous. At that time general Zia pretended to be the saviour of democracy and justified his uprising putsch on the pretext of conducting free and fair elections within 90 days, as Bhutto was alleged to have rigged the elections held by him in 1977.

But the general never bothered to honour his promise. Under growing pressure from the public who clamoured for restoration of democracy, General Zia had to announce postponement of elections on two occassions earlier on lame excuses. At the same time in intensified repressive measures against the public on the one hand and strengthened his position militarily by pledging Pakistan to the U.S. imperialists and their allies and converting Pakistan into a base for aggression against the neighbouring countries, where the people have chosen the path of peace, progress and democracy.

With his total isolation from the masses and the consolidation of the people's struggle for restoration of democracy in Pakistan, Zia played the gimmick of announcing elections to be held in March 1985 under his own terms. But this is not going to be free and fair elections, as in effect he is first going to select the people he would like to be elected to the national and provincial assemblies so as to ensure that he will have only his hand-picked stooges in the so-called legislative bodies.

The qualifications stipulated for contesting these elections were so designed as to disqualify and exclude the vast majority of the people of Pakistan, who were opposed to Zia's military rule.

Political observers had, however, correctly predicted that under no circumstance Zia will voluntarily hold any free and fair elections in Pakistan with a view of transferring power to the elected representatives of the people. Zia had always been fumbling indecisively on the question of holding elections, as it was a Damocles' sword hanging over him.

Zia's fear of general elections, even if they are to be held at gun point, is absolutely genuine and understandable as he knows it will be suicidal for him to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people. His fate will be sealed in a free and fair elections as the first step that may be taken by any government elected under the normal democratic process will be to apply the p r o c e s s o f t h e l a w o f t h e country to the general and his coterie for the crime of usurping power by over-throwing the legally constituted government of the country. The ghost of Bhutto is haunting him all the time. Therefore, by holding elections and transferring power to the elected representatives, he will be digging his own grave.

But the enlightened people of Pakistan are giving him hell of problems [as received] on the question of general elections and restoration of democracy. He cannot go on fooling the people for all the time. Therefore, he should do something to secure his shaky position and make it dead sure that all the powers will rest in him even after holding the mock elections promised by him in March, 1985. This is a question of his life and death.

It is in this context that general Zia and his U.S. masters who are the selfstyled champions of democracy had invented the so-called referendum held on December 19 on the issue of Islamisation. Zia has no political affinity or any roots among the masses, the only weapon he and his foreign masters could find was to wickedfully abuse the religion of Islam to achieve their sinister designs of perpetuating the military dictatorship over the freedomloving people of Pakistan. Thus, Zia has assumed himself the role of a prophet sent by God to convert the Pakistanis into Islam as if they are now infidels. The whole world knows that the people of Pakistan are devout Muslims and Pakistan was created as an Islamic state. Then what is the meaning and purpose in asking them whether they want Islam or not? Under no circumstances the answer can be negative. But what relation a verdict on Islam can have on the continuance of an usurper military dictator as the ruler of Pakistan as this was not the issue in the referendum? [sentence as received]

It is similar to asking the Pakistanis if they agree that the sun rises in the east and telling them that if the answer is 'yes' it will be taken as a verdict for continuance of Zia's rule for another five years.

Gandhi on U.S. Study of Indian Political Trends

BK240338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, told the Lok Sabha yesterday that the government is examining the implications and the circumstances that led the U.S. State Department to commission a study on the likely trends in social, political, and foreign policies in India during the next 5 years. In a written reply, the prime minister said that one of the several scenarios discussed in the study by Professor Robert Hardgrave of Texas University was about the political situation in India in the event of Mrs Indira Gandhi's sudden death.

He said the government finds the chapter totally abhorrent and it raises many questions which are being examined.

Gandhi Comments on Struggle Against Violence

BK240359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister has called for a major struggle against violence. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the country had witnessed a lot of violence last year arising from economic disparity, communalism, and regionalism. We have to fight against it.

The prime minister was replying to a debate on the motion of thanks to the president for his address which was later adopted by the house. Mr Gandhi said we have to build a strong, progressive, and dynamic India. For achieving it, we need the help of all.

The prime minister reiterated India's resolve to improve relations with all countries, particularly those in South Asia.

President's Message on 36th Republic Day

BK231548 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 23 Jan 85

["Text of the President's Republic Day Message To Be Delivered to the Nation on the Eve of Republic Day"]

[Text] We celebrate our 36th Republic Day tomorrow. On this occasion I greet you all, my fellow citizens, and convey my best wishes.

The Republic Day is a day of special significance in the life of our nation. On this day 35 years ago a Constitution given by the founding fathers came into effect. The preamble, which epitomises the intent and spirit of this Constitution, underscores the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy. In pursuance of this, the Constitution safeguards and directs for all citizens justice — social economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, faith, and worship; equality of status, and opportunity. During these years we have made considerable progress and achieved a great measure of political justice. However, in the matter of affording economic and social justice and equality of status and opportunity more remains to be done. To fulfill this promise the pace of economic progress needs to be accelerated and the benefits of progress have to reach the weaker sections of our people. I appeal to all citizens on this occasion to remember that the Constitution gives them certain rights as well as duties. While they should remain vigilant in protecting their rights they should also be devoted to the performance of their duties.

The last year was one of great trial for our country. Our federal polity was subjected to an acid test. The cult of violence culminated in the most tragic assassination of our beloved Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. She was not only one of the greatest Indian leaders of the present century but undoubtedly an outstanding statesperson of all times. Her untimely demise was traumatic for the nation. The people of India are fortunate that in spite of such a grave situation the country's political system, dynamic and resilient as it is, remained resolutely unshaken and our outlook unaltered. The year ended on a note of hope with the electorate's clear verdict in the peaceful elections to the eighth Lok Sabha last month. The vigour and maturity of our democratic tradition were vindicated.

We in India can feel justifiably proud of our composite cultural heritage characterised by tolerance and respect for one another and commitment to a peaceful and democratic way of life. It was in this land that the welfare of humanity as a whole — "Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavantu" — was proclaimed as the supreme ideal influencing the peoples' outlook. The greatness of our society was achieved not by the victories of groups or factions over each other but by reconciliation — a synthesis which enriched and fostered a composite culture. Let us all join together and add to this precious heritage. This country belongs to all of us irrespective of religion, language, colour or creed and we are all its proud citizens.

The principal role of every religion in the context of the development of civilization has been to generate spiritualism. However, it is painful to see that in the name of religion, basic tenets and teachings are distorted by over zealous defenders of faith giving birth to communalism. Before independence an accusing finger could be pointed at the foreign rulers for the scourge of communalism. After independence we have to ask ourselves why the malaise persists. Communalism has not only reduced the respect for religion but even diminished the sanctity of religious places. What is most distressing is that some amongs our youth on whom rest the future of the country are also succumbing to this evil. Communal riots instigated by a mischievous few cause untold misery and suffering to large numbers of innocent people. In a multireligious society like ours communalism can be the greatest hurdle in the economic progress and political stability of the country.

India's foreign policy remains anchored to peace and nonalignment. In the previous year both during my state visits abroad as well as from my meetings with the visiting dignitaries from other countries I have noticed the respect which India's foreign policy commands in the comity of nations and the weight that the Indian view carries in the international fora. This itself is the barometer of the success of our foreign policy. As chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement India has taken an initiative to convene the six nation summit to make a joint appeal for disarmament. In this context I am happy that the two major powers have

decided to resume their dialogue on disarmament. I hope that the major powers realise that nuclear holocaust poses a danger to all humanity and that curbing this danger is a responsibility they owe to each living being.

I have had many opportunities of meeting officers and men of our Armed Forces and other paramilitary security forces who are serving the nation with dedication. The Army, Navy and Air Forces are ever vigilant to meet any threat to the country. For this they deserve the appreciation of the nation.

I sometimes wonder as to why in this land of saints and philosophers, whose principal message was the attainment of peace within and without, resort to violence should be made to settle a difference of opinion. For centuries we have spread the message of ahimsa [non violence]. I would like to call upon all citizens to generate an environment in which irrespective of faith language or region, mutual love and cooperation prevail. Let our energies be collectively directed to combat the evils of poverty, obscurantism, ignorance and disease.

Jai Hind [Hail India].

Argentine President Alfonsin Visits New Delhi

Gandhi Receives Alfonsin

BK231244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] The president of Argentina, Mr Raul Alfonsin, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a state visit to a ceremonial welcome. He was received at the airport by the president, Giani Zail Singh; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; and some central ministers.

Welcoming the visiting dignitary, Giani Zail Singh expressed his confidence that President Alfonsin's first visit to India and his talks will further strengthen friendship and many-sided cooperation between two members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Discusses Six-Nation Summit

BK231615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The president of Argentina, Dr Raul Alfonsin, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a state visit to a ceremonial welcome. Giani Zail Singh appreciated Dr Alfonsin's readiness to participate in the six-nation summit on nuclear disarmament. He hoped deliberations in the meeting will contribute to eliminate the menace of a nuclear war.

Reciprocating the sentiments expressed by Giani Zail Singh, the Argentine president said the two countries have before them great opportunities of intensifying their bilateral relations through increasing trade and cooperation.

Dr Alfonsin shared the fear of the international community against the arms race and growing nuclear arsenal, the distortions in world trade and financial systems and the growing poverty in many developing countries. He said we can and must make our voices heard to warn the world of the danger.

The All-India Radio correspondent reports that during his 7-day tour, apart from attending the summit meeting, Dr Alfonsin will hold talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He will also attend a ceremony to sign a number of agreements between India and Argentina. He will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade. Later, Dr Alfonsin called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house].

Soviet Minister Goldin Arrives in New Delhi

BK231617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] The Soviet minister for the construction of heavy industry enterprises, Mr N.V. Goldin, arrived in New Delhi today. He was received at the airport, among others, by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr V.N. Gadgil.

Briefs

Agreement With Nepal — India and Nepal have agreed to cooperate in controlling unauthorized trade along the 1,000-km open border. This was decided at a meeting of the Indo-Nepal intergovernmental committee in Katmandu yesterday. According to Nepalese Finance Ministry sources, the two countries have also agreed to establish a joint inspection team along the border. It has been decided to increase bilateral trade, while controlling illicit trade. [Text] [*Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 85 BK*]

Pakistan Protests 22 Jan DRA Airspace Violations

BK241026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] For the 3d day in a row, two Afghan aircraft penetrated Pakistan's airspace in the Arandu area yesterday between 1200 and 1245 [0700 and 0745 GMT] and dropped two bombs 1 km south of Arandu. No casualties or damage, however, occurred.

Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul authorities at the unprovoked attack. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked in Islamabad this afternoon to inform his authorities that if such attacks did not cease, the entire reponsibility for the serious consequences would rest on them.

Further on Netherlands Foreign Minister Visit

Talks Held 23 Jan

BK231608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] During Pakistan-Netherlands talks in Islamabad today views were exchanged on many matters of mutual interest and international and regional issues. The Pakistani delegation at the talks was led by Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan due to Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit abroad. The Netherlands delegation was led by Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

The Afghan situation and efforts to solve this issue through negotiations were also considered during the talks. The Netherlands minister affirmed his country's determination to continue aid for Pakistan's economic progress and prosperity. He said his country will continue to provide assistance to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan on humanitarian grounds. He supported Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghan problem. During the talks, India-Pakistan relations, the Gulf war and East-West relations were also reviewed.

Meets With Zia

BK240624 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] The foreign minister of the Netherlands called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. During the meeting, he informed the president about his very useful and in-depth exchange of views held today with the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, on wide-ranging subjects, including the Afghanistan issue, the developments in South Asia and Southwest Asia. He said he was greatly impressed by his visit to the tented village in Peshawar and appreciated the help and assistance being provided by the Pakistan Government to the 3-million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

About bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands, he said he discussed specific ways and means to further consolidate them. The foreign minister showed keen interest in domestic developments in Pakistan, particularly the forthcoming elections. He said the results of the recently held referendum in Pakistan were followed with great interest in the Netherlands.

The president reciprocated the senitments of friendship and goodwill and presented to him two books on Pakistan.

Comments on Afghanistan

BK240318 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Netherlands has reiterated its support for Pakistan's principled stand on the problem of Afghanistan and for its efforts to find a peaceful political solution to this problem in accordance with UN resolutions on this issue. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad last night, the Netherlands foreign minister, Hans van den Broek, said Western countries fully realize the gravity of the situation created by the armed Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts to promote peace in the region through a peaceful political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts to maintain normal relations with its neighbors, especially India. He noted that Pakistan has always offered concrete proposals for negotiations with neighboring countries to achieve this objective.

Referring to economic relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands, he said the two countries are expected to sign an agreement soon to promote these relations further. He said in order to consolidate bilateral economic relations in the future, grants for projects will be emphasized rather than grants in the form of commodities.

Delhi Reports 'Crackdown' on Opposition Leaders

BK240314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Pakistan Government is continuing its crackdown on opposition leaders who have urged the boycott of next month's parliamentary elections. Reports say police raided a meeting in Lahore yesterday and arrested two prominent members of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. According to another report, Miss Benazir Bhutto — now in England — is considering to return to Pakistan to spearhead the boycott of the elections.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said in Islamabad that the government will go ahead with the polls despite the boycott call given by the main opposition alliance. Elections for the National Assembly are scheduled for the 25th of next month and for the four provincial assemblies 3 days later.

SRI LANKA

AFP: Tamil Separatists Allegedly Kill Policemen

HK231056 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT
23 Jan 85

[Text] Colombo, Jan 23 (AFP) — Three policemen were killed and two other serious wounded when suspected Tamil separatists blew up the vehicle in which they were travelling early today near the east coast town of Kalmunai, official sources said.

The civilian driver was also wounded when a landmine placed on the road exploded, the sources added.

High ranking police sources told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that the policemen were on their way to the courthouse when the blast rocked their vehicle.

A gang of suspected separatists also opened fire on them, the police source said. But it was not immediately known whether the policemen died in the blast or the subsequent firing.

Meanwhile the government said today expressed hope that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would be informed about the "continuing terrorist bases" in his country, but voiced anxiety over what New Delhi called "refugees" from Sri Lanka, a government source said.

The Sri Lankan cabinet today discussed some of the references made by Mr Gandhi in the Indian Parliament yesterday about the "Sri Lankan problem," minister of state and Cabinet spokesman Anadatissa de Alwis said.

Militants within Sri Lanka's 2.5-million strong Tamil minority are waging a violent campaign for a separate Tamil state in the country's north and east, complaining of widespread discrimination at the hands of majority Sinhalese.

The cabinet noted that there was "continuing warmth and affection" for Sri Lanka at the "highest levels of the Indian Government," he said.

The ministers also noted with "satisfaction" that the questions of Sri Lanka's naval vessel in Indian custody and the Indian fishermen held in Sri Lanka would be shortly "resolved with satisfaction to both sides," the minister said.

Mr Gandhi told Parliament yesterday that he wanted to establish high level contacts with Colombo to further efforts aimed at ending the ethnic issue here.

India apprehended a Sri Lankan navy vessel and its crew for allegedly violating Indian territorial waters.

Earlier Sri Lanka took into custody 17 Indian trawler skippers for poaching in Sri Lanka waters and produced them in court this week.

AFP: Tamils Claim Plane Shot Down Near Jaffna

HK240524 Hong Kong AFP in English 0447 GMT
24 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP) — Tamil separatists shot down a Sri Lankan Air Force plane yesterday, a news agency quoted the Tamil Information Centre in Madras as saying.

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI), quoting a statement by the centre, said that a rocket launcher was used to shoot down the aircraft near Jaffna, the northern port city which is the centre of Tamil separatism.

The aircraft was about to land at the Palaly military airport when it was hit, UNI quoted the release as saying.

The Sri Lankan High Commission here said they were not aware of any such incident.

This was the first time that Tamil separatists campaigning for creation of a Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka have claimed that they had shot down an Air Force aircraft.

Government Denies Tamil Report

HK240700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT
24 Jan 85

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP) — The government today denied a report by Tamil separatists that they shot down a military aircraft yesterday in Jaffna, the capital of the troubled northern province.

State Ministry sources told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE today that no military aircraft was shot at or down in Jaffna yesterday.

(UNITED NEWS OF INDIA quoted a statement by the Tamil Information Centre in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu saying that Tamil separatists had downed a military plane with a rocket launcher).

The State Ministry said that some shots were heard near the Palaly Airport in Jaffna yesterday.

Air Force personnel were said to have fired in the general direction from which the shots were heard, the sources said, adding that no damage was done to an Air Force helicopter which was at the airport.

However informed sources told AFP that some shots had been fired at a civilian plane belonging to a private company which flies to Jaffna. They said the pilot had returned safely.

It was not known whether the shots were aimed at the plane or whether there had been some firing in the area by separatists.

Further on Visit of Bulgarian Trade Minister

Signs Oil Contract

LD231819 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — Iran and Bulgaria today agreed to extend their contract, whereby Iran will export 1.25 million tons of crude oil to Bulgaria in the year 1985.

The contract was initialled by Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, and Mohammad Gharazi, Iranian oil minister, here today.

Also discussed in the meeting were oil and petrochemical issues, as well as the necessity for expanding bilateral cooperation.

Received by President Khamene'i

GF232025 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jan (IRNA) — President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i today received the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade who is currently visiting Tehran and leading an economic delegation from his country. The meeting was attended by Agriculture and Rural Development Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

During the meeting, the Bulgarian minister expressed his delight at meeting with the president. He pointed out that Iranian-Bulgarian relations have witnessed evident growth after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran [words indistinct] in the (?agricultural), industrial, and trade fields. He pointed out that his country is fully ready to expand these relations further.

During the meeting the president stressed the need to expand the existing cooperation between the two countries. He referred to Iran's foreign policy, which calls for consolidating relations with countries that respect the interests of the Iranian peoples in their dealings with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He then referred to the existing progress in the economic and technical relations between the two countries and stressed the need to establish between Iran and Bulgaria technical and scientific exchanges in the field of agricultural research.

Oil Minister Opposes OPEC Price Reduction

LD241222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Mr Mohammad Gharazi, minister of petroleum, prior to his departure from Tehran for Geneva today to participate in OPEC's extraordinary session, said in an interview with our correspondent:

Iran will refuse to accept any reduction in the price of crude oil and does not deem such a change as being in the interest of oil pricing. In connection with OPEC's extraordinary session, due to be held on Saturday 26 January, and referring to relevant resolutions adopted in previous OPEC sessions and implemented by the members, the petroleum minister said: The world of arrogance thought that OPEC could not reach agreement in connection with problems related to oil and started to spread propaganda that OPEC's decline has begun However, despite what world arrogance may have imagined, the events during the past 2 months and the decisions of the governments and their actions have demonstrated that the the price has been stabilized and that none of the members has gone beyond the level of production fixed.

With regard to the measures by U.S. imperialism to bring pressure to bear on OPEC, he said: The United States, by producing 8 to 9 million barrels of oil instead of 5 million barrels last year, intends to bring down the price of oil on the world market. However, facts show that the excessive U.S. production cannot continue, and everyone hopes that OPEC will weather the crisis and be able to continue the present stabilized situation.

In connection with the problems of interest to the OPEC extraordinary session and Iran's new proposals, Mr Gharazi also provided some elucidations to our correspondent to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin Recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Gharazi, could you please tell us for what purpose OPEC's extraodinary session is being convened and what issues will be raised in this session by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Gharazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A salute to the imam of the Islamic nation and the brethren of the imam. During the last session, a month ago, it was suggested that for a period of 1 month the price of oil should be stabilized in the manner approved during the session and that a month later discussions should be held once again about the price — not the bench price, but rather about the differences between the price of light and heavy crude oil. During the same session the producers of light oil also did not agree with the changes made, whereby the price of relatively heavy crude oils should be raised by 50 cents and the price of light crude oils should be lowered by 25 cents; and Nigeria and Algeria did not agree in this connection. The conference then decided that it should hold a session this month, whereby discussions should be held particularly on the difference in prices.

It is natural that Iran will put forward certain suggestions and views in this respect. In the first place we shall refuse to accept any changes whatsoever in the bench price. Under no circumstances do we agree to change the price of $29, as suggested by certain countries, among other things. We do not deem this to be in the interest of oil pricing.

Raising the price of relatively heavy crude oils is something which the market decides. But on the whole the bench price of crude oil should remain stable; and this is a turning point in the life of OPEC which has been obtained during the past 2 years; and we oppose this. [as heard]

Our suggestion is more on the side issues, in the areas of the production of oil dependent on liquefied gas [as heard] and also petroleum products which certain countries export. What we expect is that the conference will agree that liquefied gas and petroleum products, exported or refined by certain countries, should be listed in OPEC regulations so that these exports or productions do not influence the bench price. [end recording]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communique No 1981

LD231603 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — A military communique published here today said that Iran's Muslim combatants had killed or wounded at least 30 Iraqi soldiers in artillery fighting in the western fronts on Wednesday, while sporadic artillery fire had been traded between the warring troops elsewhere in the battlefronts throughout Tuesday.

The communique published by the joint staff of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1981 said that the Iranian troops had held out in their positions, maintaining the upper hand in all fronts on Tuesday.

In battlefronts west of Iran's city of Sar Dasht in West Azarbayjan Province the Iranian troops pounded enemy infiltration routes. Elsewhere in the western battlefronts Iran's Muslim combatants pounded enemy positions wrecking one tank and one vehicle and another 106-mm gun.

At 22.00 hours (18.30 hours GMT) on January 21 one enemy patrol unit was spotted and repelled by the Iranian troops in Shur-Shirin in Ilam Province.

Iran's Muslim combatants maintained their hold on the southern fronts on Tuesday periodically pounding enemy positions and their bunkers and silencing their artillery fire. Artillery fire was heaviest in Fakkeh and Pich-Angizeh in Khuzestan Province on Tuesday.

In other fronts Iran's Gendarmerie personnel set ablaze at least seven enemy artillery emplacements killing a number of them. [sentence as received]

On Tuesday also four residential houses and one mosque were damaged as the Iraqis shelled residential quarters in Abadan from across the border.

UN Delegation Meets With Foreign Minister

LD232112 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — Members of the United Nations fact-finding delegation today thanked the Islamic Republic for providing the required facilities during their inspection of Iranian POW Camps in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The delegation has been assigned by the United Nations secretary general to prepare a report on the treatment of prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran.

Its last visit to a POW camp here, which has been proposed by the delegation itself, would take place Thursday before its departure on Friday.

The delegation arrived here last Friday and carried out inspections of camps in Gorgan, Sari, Semnan and Tehran, holding private meetings with prisoners and checking camp conditions.

Submits Reports on Bombings

LD241135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The UN delegation, sent to Iran to inspect the residential areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran which had been attacked by the Zionist Iraqi regime, submitted its report to the UN Security Council after inspecting those areas. According to the report, on the basis of their inspection and existing information and evidence, there were no industrial or military installations in Gharbiyyeh, Dehlaviyyeh or Al-Valid villages.

It is the belief of the delegation that these villages, which are completely nonmilitary, were attacked from the air with cluster bombs. In view of the effects of the bombs, the delegation estimates that the attack took place 3 or 4 days before the inspection and resulted in some casualties.

Official on Preparations for Mobilization

GF231257 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 16 Jan 85 London Edition p 20

[Text] There are now more than 3 million trained personnel in the oppressed mobilization plan. The oppressed mobilization unit, in addition to setting up close to 10,000 tribal, rural, and urban resistance bases — which are administered by about 811 regional resistance headquarters by setting up 50 groups of 15 mobilized personnel (under the name "aid and rescue group"), who are undergoing training at present — will rush to support the hezbollahi ummah throughout the country during emergencies.

Mr Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, the chief of the state oppressed mobilization organization, who announced the above to the IRNA correspondent, added that in the implementation of the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni Plan, the oppressed mobilization organization has been able to categorize a force of 600,000 combatants who have seen action at the battlefronts. Whenever necessary they will be dispatched to the battlefields according to their special qualifications.

Mr Rahmani said that setting up the forces of the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni is one of the most unique plans in the world in mobilizing such a force. In relation to the resistance bases in the mosques, he said that these bases will be expanded in quantity and quality and will give more coordination to the 20 million-strong Army. He referred to a general plan, the "SAF Plan," which he said aims at coordinating all the forces which are in some way attached to the organization of the oppressed mobilization. He said this plan has been formed already. Referring to his visit to the battlefronts, Mr Rahmani said: The morale of the forces at the fronts of the imposed war was very high and these forces are fully prepared and ready in every way for the operation which will have to be carried out in the not too distant future.

The expectation that we have from the battle-experienced combatants and the entire hezbollahi ummah is that in view of the current sensitive situation they should pay more attention to their responsibilities and keep the fronts hot with their more active presence. Today the need for their presence in the battlefronts

and the need for the defense of the leaders of Islam and the Islamic Republic and the need to face the world oppressors is quite clear. It is this very mobilization of millions that has brought victory as a fruit of our efforts. It is hoped that with the growing presence at the front we will march toward the final victory.

Regarding the purpose of his visit to Mashahd, the chief of the oppressed mobilization said that it was to look into the problems of the Khorasan guards and the mobilized personnel. He praised the role played by the hezbollahi ummah of Khorasan in providing the force and for sending support to the battlefronts of right over wrong. He said: We are greatly indebted to the sacrificial aid given by this ummah.

Iraqi Muslim 'Revolutionaries' Explode Bomb
GF201906 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries have attacked an Iraqi security center in the city of Al-Mawsil, in northern Iraq.

Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries exploded a bomb in the center. They killed or wounded 10 Saddamists.

'Freedom Fighters' Attack Guards in West Region
GF231648 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] According to a report received from our correspondent, freedom fighters attacked a guard post in West Azarbayjan. While destroying the post they inflicted heavy losses on the guards stationed there. This clash lasted about 6 hours. The guard force which had been sent to support the guards at the post were waylaid by the freedom fighters. The freedom fighters killed a number of them. About 100 freedom fighters took part in this clash and after the battle they returned safely to their bases.

According to the correspondent of the Free Voice of Iran, the successful attack by the combatants on the mercenary guards in West Azarbayjan was referred to in the mullah Cabinet meeting. Nateq-Nuri, Khomeyni's interior minister, who was chairing the meeting in the absence of Prime Minister Musavi, said in his press conference with the radio of the mullah regime that more than 80 opponents had taken part in this attack.

The waves of attacks on the guards in various parts of the country, particularly in Kordestan, Khorasan, and West and East Azarbayjan, have caused great concern among the leaders of the Islamic Republic.

In this connection, Reyshahri, the regime's minister of information and security, visited West Azarbayjan and introduced new tactics to crush the combatants. But participation by people in the combatants' attacks is so strong that regime forces are not prepared to come to grips with the freedom fighters. They try to avoid carrying out regime orders to crush these people.

Nation Will 'Take Revenge' on Islamic Rulers
TA231958 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Compatriots: Some time ago it was disclosed that authorities of the fascist-theocratic Islamic regime eliminated another 400 of the Iranian nation's struggling and revolutionary children at Evin Prison. These beasts, who wear the garb of the clergy, take pleasure in shedding the people's blood, or rather in sucking the people's blood, in the true sense of the word. The hands of every one of these gentlemen are stained with blood. the bloodstains of the Iranian people's innocent and struggling children can be observed on the turbans and cloaks of these clergymen who have usurped power.

Our homeland's people see in the ugly faces of the Islamic government's authorities the bloodsucking Zahak [a king of Iran notorious for his tyranny] of our era, who never tire of shedding and sucking the blood of the free Iranian people.

For a long time now it has been an open secret among the people that the executioners of the ruthless Islamic regime, prior to executing those who have been sentenced to death in the Islamic kangaroo courts, extract the blood of these individuals and store it in bottles, and thus eliminate those who show resistance against the palace of tyranny of the Zahak of the era.

The fascist-theocratic Islamic regime ruling in Iran has employed fascist-Hitlerite methods in our calamity- and mullah-stricken homeland. But fearing the people, those in charge of affairs have repeatedly sworn by God, the prophet, and the Koran, and have claimed in Friday prayer sermons that torture, persecution, and extraction of blood from convicts do not exist in the Islamic prisons of the regime, and that prisons of the Islamic regime are allegedly orphanages. But the life of a lie is not long, and ultimately the facts are exposed and revealed.

The free Iranian people condemn the crimes of the tyrannical Islamic rulers and will never forgive the brutality of these gentlemen, which they learned in the schools of Hitler and Pinochet. The Iranian people will take revenge on traitors to the revolution and on a handful of turbanned executioners and criminals.

Soviet Forces Bomb DRA Mosque, Killing 60
LD211048 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 21, IRNA — Soviet forces bombarded a mosque in Seyyed-Abad village in Afghanistan's Vardak Province last week, killing and injuring some 100 inhabitants of the area.

Sources close to Muslim Afghan mujahidin, announcing this, said that a number of residents of the village were holding their prayers at the mosque when the air raid took place.

They added that 60 people, including a number of children, were killed and 40 others injured in the attack.

'Tens' of Soviets Killed by Afghan Revolutionaries

LD231747 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Pr. Jan 23, IRNA — Tens of Soviet soldiers were killed, several tanks and armoured personnel-carriers destroyed and eight Kabul government soldiers were taken as prisoners by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries during a series of attacks launched on the joint positions of the Soviet forces of occupation and government forces in eleven regions in Herat Province.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also succeeded in breaking the five-day-long siege of Herat City.

In the process of these attacks which took place two weeks ago, six of Karmal's mercenaries joined the Muslim combatants with their weapons.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Envoy in Beirut

NC210825 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 Jan 85 pp 16-21

[Interview with (Mahmoud Nourani), Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, by *MONDAY MORNING* correspondent Nada Elia — date not given]

[Text][Elia] In view of the leading role of Iran in the Shi'ite world, what is the relationship between Tehran and the biggest Shi'ite organization in Lebanon, namely, the Amal Movement?

[(Nourani)] The question should be reframed to ask about the relationship between the Islamic revolution and all Moslems, especially those of Lebanon.

In our opinion, the Islamic revolution is not confined to the Shi'ites alone, but is the revolution of all Moslems. The Islamic revolution in Iran is based on the blessed Koran, that stresses the unity of true believers.

[Elia] What is your opinion of the Al-Naqurah talks, and what is the most practical alternative in the event of the breakdown of the talks?

[(Nourani)] The Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic adopted a clear-cut position on the talks. Iran announced its rejection of the talks because it considers that merely holding talks with Israel is a recognition of Israel.

Once we agree to hold direct or indirect talks with Israel, we are, practically speaking, recognizing Israel. The position of Iran on refusal to recognize Israel was spelled out by Imam Khomeyni. Consequently, we reject the Al-Naqurah talks.

We believe that the only way to expel Israel from the south is to adopt the basic principle that Israel adheres to, namely the principle of force. In other words, the only effective way to get rid of the Israelis is to force them back. We believe that the fighting Lebanese Moslem youths in the south have already taken steps in that direction, and we bless and support them.

The second method or way of expelling the Israelis is to increase Islamic enlightenment, spreading Islamic awareness in order to prevent Israel from being able to enlist enemies of the Islamic trend and agents who will do its bidding. The Islamic wave will expel the Israelis from the south, and from the sacred lands of Islam.

In order to be able to confront Israel, more support must be given to the Islamic awareness in the south to thwart Israel's attempts to enlist agents to hit us from within. The solution, therefore, consists in continuing the armed struggle against the Zionists, and increasing Islamic awareness, especially in the south.

As we have seen, the talks will not end up leading to a solution that is favorable to us. So far, nothing has been accomplished.

[Elia] Iraq is the only Arab confrontation state that has not concluded an armistice agreement or a cease-fire agreement with Israel. Does that mean that the other confrontation states recognize Israel, directly or indirectly?

[(Nourani)] We reject every form of recognition of Israel, be it direct or indirect. As such, we reject all armistice and cease-fire agreements with Israel.

However, there is a difference. Some countries, such as Syria and Libya, do not fully submit to these agreements, which is obvious. Syria and Libya are the only two Arab countries that continue to reject the existence of Israel. Even with the recognition of the world community, and a unanimous, indirect recognition of Israel by an Arab summit, we still feel that Syria and Libya are among the countries that, practically speaking, still stand up to Israel.

[Elia] How can the Lebanese resistance in the south force Israel to withdraw in view of the meager outside help given to the resistance?

[(Nourani)] In our opinion, the issue of the south cannot be separated from the issue of Palestine, in the sense that the Palestine issue is an Islamic cause for which Moslems have assumed responsibility for around 35 years. Actually, the Palestinians are not responsible alone for Palestine or for its liberation, which is also the responsibility of all the Moslems.

We consider the cause of south Lebanon to be a similar cause, in the sense that the liberation of the south is not the responsibility of the Lebanese or the southerners alone, but a general Islamic responsibility. All Moslems should extend every form of aid possible, be it political, economic or otherwise, and all should have a role in liberation.

If the occupation continues in the south, it will extend to other regions or other Islamic countries, with the south serving as a base and launching pad for expansion, even as Palestine served as the launching pad for the invasion of Lebanon.

As for the support of Moslems for the cause of the south, it would be good to bear in mind the example of the Islamic revolution in Iran, in the event that little or no outside help is received. As all know, the enemies of the revolution in Iran were very strong,

stronger than Israel, but the revolution was stronger still. Despite the strength of the enemy, we managed to secure victory over an enemy supported by all the enemies of the Islamic world, by resolving the issue of martyrdom. This is what is happening in the south.

The issue of martyrdom is resolved by the individual himself by coming to grips with the matter of death. When death becomes simple for the Moslem, no obstacle can stand in his way.

Once we dealt with the issue of martyrdom, we successfully confronted the strongest power in the Middle East, which was backed by America until the fall of the shah.

This is a good example for the people of the south. Assuming that there is no outside help, once the problem of martyrdom is resolved and once we have enough faith in our cause, guns, tanks and all the arms and weapons in the world cannot stop us. Raja'i the martyr said that the war starts the day our ammunition runs out. He meant that the real war, the true jihad, is carried out in hand-to-hand combat and by faith.

The Iranian Islamic Republic supports the issue of the south because those struggling in the south, be they Shi'ites or Sunnites, are linked ideologically with the Iranian Islamic revolution and with the principle of struggling against colonialism and Zionist hegemony. As long as there are such links, there are strong ties. Aid is being received in the south, unannounced, and we see no need to announce such aid. The south also provides support to us in the Iranian-Iraqi war, which was imposed on us.

[Elia] Don't your remarks contradict the statement made in Damascus a few days ago by Minister Nabih Birri, who said that the only aid received by the south from abroad was that provided by Syria?

[(Nourani)] No, there is no contradiction between what I said and the remarks of Mr. Nabih Birri in Damascus. Our support for the south and its people is not within a specific organizational framework. We are not helping the people of the south within a specific context; we are providing general public support. Mr Birri might have meant organized and direct aid. The papers today, for example, mentioned aid worth 750,000 dollars and 300,000 dollars from Arab countries for the south. This is also a form of support.

One example of support for the south is that the Iranian Islamic Republic has underwritten all the expenses of the families of martyrs in the south. This fact has not been previously announced. This form of support is continuing, not through any specific organization, because we are not trying to support in order to gain publicity. We consider this a binding duty that the Republic must discharge. We will not disclose our support until the victory of the revolution, God willing, in the south. History will record and recognize those who have worked for the liberation of the south, and they will be known to future generations.

[Elia] Could it be said that Iranian aid is being channelled through Hezbollah?

[(Nourani)] No, not through Hezbollah.

[Elia] What is the role of the Revolutionary Guards presently stationed in east Lebanon, and whom do they take their orders from?

[(Nourami)] As we have stated repeatedly, and as we have told (Lebanese) Foreign Ministry officials more than once, the Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon have a cultural guidance role only. This is their only role, a cultural-information role.

[Elia] How do you evaluate present Lebanese-Iranian relations?

[(Nourani)] The relations are good.

[Elia] What is the nature of Iranian-Syrian relations? Are they based merely on a common attitude towards the ruling regime in Baghdad?

[(Nourami)] Iranian-Syrian relations are not based only on a common attitude towards the ruling regime in Baghdad. That is not the foundation of our relations. They are based on common policies, namely, the Syrian policy of strategic confrontation of Zionism. This common position towards Zionism is the basis of Syrian-Iranian relations.

[Elia] How do you evaluate the Syrian role in Lebanon at present?

[(Nourani)] We hope the Syrians will succeed in their Lebanon policy, which we presume to be within the context of the policy of confronting Zionism. The Syrian policy in Lebanon is obviously the basis for stability and security in Lebanon. We only hope that Syrian policies in Lebanon will ultimately lead to the opening of the way to reach occupied Palestine and Jerusalem.

[Elia] Have the intensive mediation efforts exerted helped to increase the prospects of bringing the Iranian-Iraqi war to an end, or is Iran still insisting on its conditions for ending the war?

[(Nourani)] Mediation efforts have not really changed the position of the Iranian Islamic Republic. We still insist that the aggressor who began the war should be tried and punished. We feel that if we shift our position on this issue future generations will blame us because we would be accepting an imposed peace within the same framework as the imposed war. History would condemn us, and our people would not accept such a position.

[Elia] Could the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war be the result of an agreement between the superpowers to weaken both countries to allow Israel to continue to serve as the "policeman of the Middle East"?

[(Nourani)] We believe the superpowers approved the launching of the war because it was launched to end or control the Iranian revolution. The continued war, however, has changed the equation, and has resulted in continuation and entrenchment of the revolution, with the consequent spreading of the revolution in a much wider manner. Today, the superpowers want to impose peace on Iran and end the war. We believe and are confident that the war will end, God willing, in a manner detrimental to the superpowers, by the defeat of the aggressor. This war, and its ending will be, God willing, a lesson for future generations, as well as our own, and will teach them not to submit to oppression

and persecution, and will show them that they must resist every form of aggression.

[Elia] If the Iranian-Iraqi war were to end tomorrow, the Iranian Islamic revolution would continue as a cultural and ideological force, to the detriment of both superpowers, but what about the impact of the continued war on the economies of both countries?

[(Nourani)] We agree that the revolution should first start on the cultural and ideological levels, and instead of budgets being devoted to war, funds could be much better spent on cultural and construction activity and needs within the country. But did they allow us to go on?

First, they incited the Kurds to rebell, and then we were faced with a variety of ethnic wars, which culminated with the external war. This was followed by an attempt to stage a coup through the army. This plan involved shelling the headquarters of Imam Khomeyni and the cities of Qom and Tehran. This unsuccessful attempt was followed up by a wave of terrorism. The last of the plots was the war.

[(Nourani)] Right now, we are exerting special efforts to reactivate the economy, but the same question pops up again: "Will they allow us?" Will they leave us alone and spare us the trouble of having to strike such a blow against them that they will not even be able to lift up their heads again in the future?

If we were to end the war right now, who could guarantee that they would stop plotting against us?

We can divert our budget resources to cultural and developmental activities when we are no longer faced by an enemy determined to strike at the very foundations of our system. As long as our system is threatened by enemies, how can we intensify our cultural and developmental efforts? How can we possibly forget about the war?

We must demonstrate that we will not be oppressors or oppressed. Once this is established, once we have established the principle that we will not strike others but we will not allow others to strike at us, we can turn our attention to cultural and doctrinal activities.

[Elia] What do you know about the case of Imam Mousa al-Sadr?

[(Nourani)] Actually, we do not have any more information than that available to the Lebanese people and officials. We hope that Sayyid Mousa al-Sadr will return in heatlh and strength to continue to play the role he played when he was in Lebanon in educating and activating people.

Mousa al-Sadr deserves the major credit for the present educational and fighting activities in the south as the southerners confront the Zionist enemy. He was the guide and leader in these activities, which were designed to educate and prepare the people to struggle in south Lebanon. We hope Mousa al-Sadr will return to his people and play his role of leadership.

[Elia] Is Iran working to secure his release?

[(Nourani)] Iran is working to secure his release.

[Elia] There were reports today that President al-Jumayyil intended to visit Iran. When will such a visit take place, and what will the program be?

[(Nourani)] We do not have any information on this subject.

[Elia] Do you expect such a visit to take place?

[(Nourani)] This is a political issue related to existing political equations. We have no information on any such visit.

[Elia] Would Iran welcome President al-Jumayyil if he wanted to visit Tehran?

[(Nourani)] That would all depend on the nature of the visit. If the Iranian authorities ascertain that the nature of the visit relates to specific issues, he will naturally be welcome. The Iranian borders are not closed to anybody. The welcome would depend on the reasons and objectives of the visit.

[Elia] Does the Iranian regime feel that it is isolated in the world, and is anything being done to overcome this isolation?

[(Nourani)] On the contrary, we are by no means isolated. One indication of this is our active role, especially recently, in international circles, and in exchange visits with many of the countries of the world. We are at present playing an active role in the United Nations, and we have proposals in international meetings, such as the proposal for the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations, and our proposals within the Nonaligned Movement. We insist on maintaining stronger relations with the countries of the Third World than those we maintain with the capitalist European countries. We have good relations with the countries of the Third World and with neighboring countries, such as Pakistan, Turkey and India.

We have strong emotional ties with peoples who feel persecuted and oppressed, which is only natural. The world media would, of course, like to portray us as being isolated, and oil funds are being used to enhance this false impression.

Our relations with other countries are based on precept of Imam Khomeyni that calls for relations with other countries to be based on mutual respect. That is the basis of the Iranian foreign policy, and involves the commitment of each country not to try and impose itself on others. Consequently, we cannot have relations with some countries, such as America, because it cannot accept this basis for relationships, namely equality and equal interests. In fact, many other countries do not accept this principle, especially the countries which had more interests in the past in Iran than Iran had in these countries.

On the other hand, they cannot impose isolation on us. Such isolation, however, would not be detrimental to us; it would be for the good of the revolution.

[Elia] What is the truth of reports that claim that Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad and Musawi have special ties with Iran and are strongly committed to Iran and carry out its orders?

[(Nourani)] We have already noted that the doors of Iran are open, and that there is a spiritual link between Iran and all Moslems, within the context of Islamic brotherhood. We affirm that the relationship of Mr Husayn Musawi with Iran is the same as the relationship of any other Moslem to Tehran, and Iran has no special ties with Musawi which are distinctive from the ties of other Moslems with Iran.

Relations exist within this context, in terms of cooperation on the moral and spiritual levels and in terms of loyalty to the Islamic revolution. No more, no less.

We do not know anything about Islamic Jihad. As far as we are concerned, we do not consider that Hezbollah ("God's Party"), is restricted to a specific organizational framework. We feel that there are two parties, Hezbollah or God's Party, and the Devil's party.

As long as we are Moslems, we are part of "God's Party" and, on this basis, our relations with all the Moslems of Lebanon are within the context of Hezbollah. However, we have no special links with the organized Hezbollah.

[Elia] Is Iran exerting efforts to unify Shi'ite leaderships in Lebanon?

[(Nourani)] Since Islamic unity, or unity between the Sunnites and Shi'ites, is part of the policy of the Iranian Islamic Republic, it is only natural that Shi'ite currents and factions be united. We do not feel that existing differences are fundamental; they are mostly cosmetic. We hope that all Moslems, Shi'ites and Sunnites, will be united.

Prior to the Islamic revolution in Iran, there were sectarian differences. However, thanks to the revolution, and the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, all currents have been united, and we hope that all Islam will be united to confront Zionism.

[Elia] Are there no plans to summon all the divergent Shi'ite groups in a bid to settle differences?

[(Nourani)] Islamic unity is the policy of Iran, and we have done much on the practical level to unite all Islamic currents in Lebanon, especially the Shi'ites. There is no need to go into details, but efforts have been and will be exerted. We are not touchy about this question. This is a legal duty that we must pursue and seek to accomplish.

The efforts that we are currently exerting to unify Islamic trends in Lebanon have clearly demonstrated that differences are personal rather than based on principles. We think that these differences will go on for a long time because Israel and America are behind them, and have exerted efforts to maintain these differences. We will continue our efforts, which are within the context of our constructive activity, and we hope that we will manage to succeed, God willing.

[Elia] Do you plan to summon the leaders who are struggling on the Lebanese scene to Tehran to resolve their differences?

[(Nourani)] I do not think this is the only way to unite the ranks, even though it might be one of the solutions.

Many have already been to Iran and have returned. Since the differences are not fundamental, and are mostly personal differences of style or taste, it is quite possible that efforts to resolve the problems could proceed here in Lebanon, instead of Iran. The location is not so important. The differences might not be resolved through one sitting, but through a series of visits by the different parties to Iran.

[Elia] Does Iran help the Afghan resistance? If so, how?

[(Nourani)] Iran supports the resistance in Afghanistan just as it supports the resistance in Lebanon. It provides help in all fields — political, as well as material — and this support is steady and constant.

[Elia] When will the Iranian-Iraqi war end?

[(Nourani)] The war will end when our conditions are met, especially the condition that the aggressor who started the war be tried and punished. This is one of the most important conditions. Iran's conditions must be met. We assure you that the war will end very soon, God willing.

[Elia] Could that be in 1985?

[(Nourani)] Very soon. I will not set a specific date, but, God willing, it could be in 1985.

Prime Minister Musavi Makes Visit to Nicaragua

For Nicaraguan and Iranian coverage of the 3-day visit to Nicaragua by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, including his meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, see the Nicaragua subsection of the Central America section of the 24 January *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.